prevalent, each revenue field does not represent a revenue holding. It is the subdivision that represents it and the demarcation of subdivisions has been given up there as a too costly and unnecessary process. We, of course, want correct maps of the subdivisions. It is that that we are trying to effect. It is only filling in details in the existing survey that we really need and it can be done in the course of the present land records maintenance work, which is cheaper than resurvey. I have looked into the question carefully, and I think that, so far at least as the taluks surveyed under the *tak* system are concerned, a resurvey is quite unnecessary and would be a waste of money. I am not, however, prepared to say whether, in regard to taluks not surveyed under the *tak* system, a resurvey would be necessary or not. I have examined the framework of the existing survey in a number of taluks such as Tiruvalla, Chirayinkil and Quilon, and I have found that there is nothing to show that the frame work of the survey was faulty. In these circumstances, I do not see why you want a resurvey which is much more costly than a supplemental survey. What you really want is an agreement of the state of affairs on the ground with that in the village records. The arrears of that work have accumulated owing to lack of proper supervision, and the neglect of that work by the village staff, the land records maintenance staff and the taluk staff. We are trying to rectify these defects and bring these records up to date.

11. The need for certain additional provisions in the Puduval Rules, dated the 31st March, 1921.

Mr. J. Padmanabha Kammatti (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) represented that Part IV of the Revised Puduval Rules relating to the disposal of occupied lands was defective and required modification. He said that occupied lands should be classified under two heads, *viz.*, (1) excess area found within registered holdings, and (2) Government lands occupied without permission by people with a view to get them registered in their names, and stated that those two classes of lands deserved not indentical, but distinct treatment. The Member observed that no differentiation had been made in the Revised Puduval Rules in regard to the disposal of those two kinds of lands, and that, under those Rules, they were to be assigned to the occupants on payment of *tharavila* equivalent to the market value of similar lands in the neighbourhood. The levy of market value on occupied *puduval* lands was very hard and it was much more so in the case of excess areas within registered holdings. It was owing to the arbitrary action of Government servants that excess lands were to be seen in registered holdings; and he urged that only the same *tharavila* as was realised for the original registry should be imposed in respect of excess areas.

The Member stated that the prices offered by and realised from parties for Government lands varied according to their wealth and influence and did not represent the real value of the lands concerned, and that, as such, to take such prices as the standard for fixing *tharavila* for occupied lands was unjustifiable. Even the levy of market rates was not being enforced in accordance with any principle, it being left to the will and fancy of the Tahsildar. The Member then spoke about the irregularities of precedure on the part of Tahsildars in that matter and pointed out that such irregularities led to considerable hardship to the landholders concerned. The Member cited the case of Muvattupuzha as an instance and said that more than 2,474 acres of occupied lands in that taluk had to be vacated by the occupants on account of the very heavy *tharavila* fixed for them, and that, subsequently, when those lands were put up to auction with an upset price considerably lower than that originally demanded from the occupants, no one came forward to bid. That showed how indiscriminately the Tahsildars fixed *tharavila* on *puduval* lands.

The Member next referred to the high rates of assessment imposed on *puduval* lands. He said that, while, before the settlement, dry lands were being assessed at the 13th *tharam*, the rate generally imposed at present was the 6th, although the lands now available for assignment were inferior in quality to those assigned in the past.

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Finally, the Member said that the provisions of Part III of the Puduval Rules were also defective, inasmuch as they fomented discord among the people and as the poor people could not compete with the rich in public auction. He suggested that, instead of small blocks being sold in public auction, they might be registered in the names of poor applicants on payment of a moderate *tharavila* and assessment, with due regard to the quality of the lands concerned. He prayed that the Puduval Rules might be modified so as to remove the above defects.

Dewan's reply.—It is difficult to understand what your grievances are. You criticise more the working of the Rules than the Rules themselves. You complain against the high rates of *tharavila* fixed by Tahsildars. The rules provide, as far as I remember, for the deduction of the value of improvements from the estimated *tharavila* in the case of occupied lands. You do not evidently want the *tharavila* to be fixed with reference to the value of the adjoining lands. What is the criterion that you would suggest, if this is not to be adopted? We must have some sort of basis upon which to fix the value of the land and the basis adopted by us is the price which the adjoining lands would fetch. The rules also provide, in the case of poor ryots, that no *tharavila* need be recovered. They also provide for the remission of *thadivila* up to Rs. 10 in each case. If the Tahsildar or any other revenue officer errs in carrying out the rules, if he fixes the *tharavila* or the assessment at a rate which is considered too high, the remedy for the person adversely affected lies in appeal. Is it possible for the Government to fix the *tharavila* and the assessment for each and every piece of land that is sought to be obtained on registry? That must be left to the discretion of the local officers.

12. Lowering the rates of tharavila and thadivila to mitigate the hardships of applicants for registry of puduval lands.

Mr. J. John (Member, Todupuzha Taluk) spoke about the high rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* imposed on *puduval* lands. He said that the *puduval* lands now available for assignment in Travancore were situated in hilly tracts, infested by wild beasts and with no means of communication. Those hilly tracts, known as *cherikals*, the Member said, used to be cultivated with paddy in former days, but that kind of cultivation had now become extinct, as all lands useful for the purpose had been assigned away to foreigners and well-to-do Travancoreans for planting tea, rubber, etc. The rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* recovered in respect of fertile lands granted for such cultivation were comparatively low, while the applicants for *puduval* lands were put to much hardship, since such lands were in inaccessible localities and since they had to pay for the tree-growth on them at tariff rates. Those trees were not of any use to them, and there was no means of removing the timber to the plains for want of means of communication. As regards *tharavila*, the Member said that, while fertile lands had been granted to planters on a nominal *tharavila*, heavy prices were being now demanded from the poor for less fertile lands, although those lands were intended for the growth of taxable trees. The Member also referred to the indiscriminate way in which the rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* were being fixed by the Proverthicars.

The Member then observed that the policy adopted by the Hyderabad Government in the matter of *puduval* registry would go to show how a Government, mindful of the interests of the public, could help the agriculturists. He described how one million acres of land in Hyderabad had been cut up into small blocks of 100 acres each and offered to the people free of *thadivila* and with no tax for the first four years after registry. When compared with that praiseworthy policy of the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam, the policy now adopted by the Travancore Government which added to the difficulties of the people was, in the opinion of the Member, deplorable.

The Member, therefore, prayed (1) that the rates of *tharavila* for *puduval* lands in hilly tracts might be reduced; (2) that *thadivila* might not be realised at tariff rates and that the same might be considerably reduced in the case of trees not saleable in the locality; and (3) that arrangements might be made for the prompt disposal of *puduval* applications.

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